



STROUD URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

REGINALD GREEN, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H.

1938

STROUD:

Printed by the Stroud News Publishing Co., Ltd.,
George Street.

STROUD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres): 2,779.
 Population (1931): 8,364.
 Population (1937): 14,100.
 Number of inhabited houses (1938): 4,403.
 Number of separate families (1931): 2,279.
 Rateable value: £81,266.
 Sum represented by a penny rate: £320.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births:	T.	M.	F.	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	177	87	90	13.0
Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Still Births	4	2	2	0.28

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal	0

Death rate of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births:

All Infants	54
Legitimate Infants	56
Illegitimate Infants	0
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough . .	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)..	0

The acreage of the enlarged urban district of Stroud is 2,779 acres, but before the change the area was only 1,168 acres.

The population at the last census, that is in 1931, was 8,364, and it was estimated in 1937 at 14,100. The present estimated population was 14,120 persons at the middle of 1938.

In 1937 the estimated population of each house was 5.0 persons, whereas at the same ratio there would be an increased population during the last year of about 500 persons, the inhabited houses being 4,403 at the end of 1938 and 4,306 in December 1937.

The rateable value in 1937 was £80,699 being increased in 1938 to £81,266.

The penny rate, which brought in £323 in 1937, only fetched £320, in 1938.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

	Poulation.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number. (Infant).	Infantile Mortality.
	Births.			Deaths.			
1875-80	7320	240	33.9	158	21.6	40	161
1881-5	8296	256	30.83	157	18.0	30	152
1886-90	9580	260	27.1	147	15.3	23	127
1891-5	9663	240	24.8	140	15.0	29	135
1896-1900	9327	213	22.8	140	15.0	29	135
1901-5	9976	183	20.2	125	13.8	20	108
1906-10	8886	171	19.2	124	14.1	18	103
1911-15	8607	159	18.0	131	15.1	12	77
1916-20	7698	141	17.5	110	15.4	10	56
1921-25	8580	136	15.9	114	13.3	7	55
1926-30	8240	104	12.5	120	14.4	6	62
1931-35	8394	113	12.4	115	12.8	6	53
1936	12635	150	11.9	187	14.8	6	40
1937	14100	160	11.3	161	11.4	6	37
1938	14120	183	13.0	180	12.7	10	54

The births actually registered in the district were 172, and of these 86 were males and 86 females.

The nett births were 183, which is not very different from the gross number.

The general birth rate was 13.0 per 1,000, and this, compares with 11.3 in 1937, and a five years' average of 12.9 per 1,000.

In the five year period 1921-25 the birth rate averaged 15.9 per 1,000, the lowest rate up to that time, but since then the rate has been about 12 per 1,000.

The birth rate in England and Wales was 15.1 per 1,000.

There were 4 still births registered, equal to 0.28 per 1,000, as against 0.60 for England and Wales.

The still birth rate was 0.92 in 1937.

The number of quarterly births was 51 in the first and only 36 in the second.

The number of births notified to the county officials is not known at present.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

More deaths, according to the registrar general, were registered than births, the number being one of the highest recorded, namely 180, and of those 90 were males and 90 females.

The deaths certified of residents in the district were 189.

This equals a death rate of 12.7 per 1,000, and this compares with a five years' average of 13.1, and of 11.6 per 1,000 in England and Wales.

The death rate for 1937 was 11.1, a low rate, which when standardized for an old population worked out at about 8.8 per 1,000.

The present standard death rate is 9.8 per 1,000.

Since the beginning of the century there has not been a very marked fall in the death rate, but at that time the rate was about 15 per 1,000, and in recent years it has fallen nearly 3 per 1,000, if we exclude the War years..

The lowest quarterly rate was in the third and the highest in the first quarter, this being what one would expect from usual weather conditions. The deaths at age periods were 10 at ages under 1 year, 5 at 1—5 years, at 5—25 years 7, at 45—65 years 38, and at ages over 65 years 123, and in 1937, at ages 0—25 there were 14 deaths, 25—65 years 47 deaths, and at 65 upwards 105 deaths.

Causes of death:—One death was due to rheumatism, a common disease, but usually not fatal in its less acute forms. A big effort is now being made to reduce the incidence of this painful and exhausting disease.

It is no doubt often caused by eating too much proteid and saccharine food.

A number of special clinics have been established for research and treatment of this complaint. The slogan for the abolition of rheumatism is no doubt "Eat more fruit."

Five deaths were due to influenza, an average number; most of these deaths being due to respiratory complications, which usually become epidemic in cold, damp weather.

Cerebral apoplexy was certified in 20 instances, there being only 13 in 1937.

There were 32 deaths from heart disease, and 20 from diseases of the circulation, similar numbers to those of last year. In this class of disease, high blood pressure plays a dominant part. Seven deaths were due to tuberculosis, all being pulmonary, 9 deaths occurring in 1937. The deaths from diabetes were 4, the same as in 1937, and all occurred among old people.

The 22 deaths from cancer, compared with 27 in 1937, were all at ages over 45 years.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign is being carried on with renewed vigour and lectures are being given all over the country.

A special film is being produced which will illustrate the lectures. Several lectures have been given by medical men in the district, and other lectures can be had on request.

Respiratory diseases caused in all 18 deaths, 10 being due to bronchitis, and four to pneumonia.

All the deaths, except 2, were at advanced ages.

Old age caused 21 deaths, compared with 11 only in 1937. There were no deaths caused by pregnancy or parturition.

Two suicide deaths were certified.

A baby died from diarrhœa, this being a very unusual cause of infantile death in these days.

One death was due to alcoholism, and 2 to appendicitis.

Six deaths, the same number as in 1937, were caused by violence. One death was due to a motor accident, 2 were caused by a falling roof coping, and 2 occurred in a cottage that was burnt down.

Altogether 13 inquests, or similar enquiries, were held in the district, in connection with deaths from injuries, or for other reasons.

Nineteen deaths were certified from other defined diseases, and no deaths were put down as due to ill-defined diseases. There were 64 deaths in the Infirmary, and 58 in the General Hospital.

No less than 84 deaths of outsiders were certified in the area.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 10 deaths of infants certified or 4 more than in 1937. This total included 6 males and 4 females. The infant death rate was 54 per 1,000 live births compared with 37 in 1937, and a 5 years' average of 49. The rate in England and Wales averaged 53 per 1,000 live births.

All the infant deaths were legitimate.

Three were due to premature birth, 1 to bronchitis, 2 to pneumonia, 3 to congenital weakness, and 1 to abdominal tuberculosis. There were 3 deaths at ages under 1 week, 5 at ages under 1 month, and 7 under 3 months.

The male infant death rate was 76 and the female rate 46 per 1,000 live births. The legitimate infant death rate was 56 per 1,000 births and the illegitimate rate was nil. There were 4 still births registered, a rate of 0.28 per 1,000.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The Stroud Centre has now 287 children on its books, and they made in all 3,526

attendances. There were 48 meetings held, and the average attendance of infants was 73.

The Rodborough Centre now has 103 children on its books, who met on 23 occasions, the average number of children attending was 40.

Both Centres are well managed, and lectures and demonstrations were carried out at most of the meetings.

These Centres are very strong factors in keeping down the infant mortality, and should both receive financial support from the district councils.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.
Lodging Houses	3	38
Slaughterhouses	10	1388
Bakehouses	11	41
Dairies and Cowsheds . .	49	171
Canal Boats	0	0
Workshops	47	52
Outworkers	0	0
Complaints received		157
Nuisances reported to Council		310
Nuisances abated		403
Preliminary notices served		82
Statutory notices served		21
Sommonses taken out		0

There are still 3 lodging-houses on the register, and these were inspected 38 times, whilst in 1937 there were only 24 inspections. They were generally well conducted and no complaints were made as to their condition.

No infectious diseases occurred in them but one case of lung tuberculosis was reported, after having been under the clinic for years. He has a separate sleeping apartment.

The eleven bakehouses—there were 10 in 1937—were inspected 41 times, with no nuisances reported, and the periodical lime-washing was carried out properly.

There are now no canal boats on the canal, which is in a derelict state, and therefore no register is provided.

The complaints received numbered 157, or 18 more than in 1937. There were reported to Council no less than 310 nuisances and there were abated 403, or more than double the number in 1937. To do this only 82 preliminary and 21 statutory notices had to be sent out, as against 78 statutory notices in 1937. Altogether 3,148 visits were paid in connection with the inspectional work, these including 1,338 visits to slaughter houses and 108 to foodshops.

There were 202 visits paid in the crusade against rats, and over 15,000 baits were laid down, about the same number as in 1937.

During "Rat Week" special efforts were made to advertise it, and to educate the population in rat repression, and the keeping of food in safes where rats cannot enter.

No fewer than 15,654 baits were laid down in sewers, rubbish heaps, and places where rats do congregate. A number of dead rats were found, but as usual only a small proportion of those killed.

Frequent visits were paid to the new open air bath in Stratford Park, where the water is filtered all the time, and a small proportion of chlorine added at intervals.

The bacterial content of the water was very good, as found by frequent tests.

There were 93 new W.C.'s erected and 109 flushing cisterns put in.

There are very few earth closets in the district and these occur only where there is not a sewer in the vicinity.

Under the Shop Act, 1934, there were 87 shops inspected, and where there were failures to carry out the Act, notices were served on the owners.

In regard to smoke abatement, 13 observations were carried out, 2 complaints being received and notices sent out in 2 instances.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area, and no camping was allowed.

No cases of bed bugs in houses were reported, and no disinfection took place.

There are probably bugs to be found in the very old houses, especially those that are attached to old warehouses and factories, but no complaints were received about them. No precautions are taken to prevent new Council houses being infested with bugs, but if any are found they will be thoroughly sprayed over.

HEALTH SERVICES

No change has occurred in the medical and nursing staff in the town, but a pupil of the sanitary inspector has been appointed an unqualified assistant inspector.

One change in laboratory facilities has taken place, as the County Council has arranged for water and sewage analysis, to be provided at a specially low charge for sanitary authorities, agreeing to take a fair number of samples.

The cost works out at about half the old cost, and the analysis will be done by the County Analyst as before.

Ambulance services have been co-ordinated and are now run by the joint councils, with a new ambulance, purchased last year.

Home visiting of children is carried out by the Stroud Nursing Association, and also by the Rodborough District Nursing Society.

Centres for treatment and consultation are situated at the general hospital. There is to be a new infirmary and institution, built probably on or near the present site.

There is no doubt but that the present places are quite out of date and contrary to modern ideas of hygiene and sanitation.

Apart from that the site is a healthy one, with abundance of fresh air and sunshine.

The joint isolation hospital is now in the urban area, where in addition to the ordinary infectious cases, 12 beds are kept for cases of lung tuberculosis. These cases, all women, come from various parts of the county, but local patients have the first claim.

INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS IN SCHOOLS

Jaundice..	33
Mumps	12
Measles	5
Whooping Cough..	80
Chicken Pox	70
Impetigo..	22
Ringworm	2
Itch	1

Owing to the non-prevalence of notifiable disease in the area, there were only about 35 cases altogether, who attended day school.

Of cases of other infectious diseases notified by the head teachers, there were 82 cases of whooping cough, 70 of chicken pox, 5 of measles, and 33 of jaundice. Measles and chicken pox were unusually present in 1937, whilst this year there were only 5 cases of measles.

Epidemic jaundice started early in the year and infected more than 33 cases that were reported by the teachers. This disease has not been present in the district for many years, and then only one mild epidemic.

It begins with headache and shivering, followed by acute catarrh of the liver.

The disease lasts for about two weeks, and the incubation period is from 2 weeks upwards.

No severe cases occurred in this outbreak.

Most of the cases occurred in the upper town, where the bulk of the school population lives. Numerous visits were paid to the schools where whooping cough occurred, and the teachers were encouraged to exclude all children with "bad coughs" in affected classes, but the result was not very good.

The population naturally does not regard any disease without a well marked "whoop" as the real thing, and can only with difficulty be induced to exclude any child without it.

All infected schools were provided with leaflets of advice, where this disease, or measles, appeared.

Skin diseases were more prevalent than usual, 22 cases of contagious impetigo being

reported, and 2 cases of ringworm. There was one case of scabies.

All the schools in the district are on the sewer and have the public water supply.

They have pedestal W.C.'s in all the schools, and wash basins are provided.

The memorandum on school exclusions is closely followed, but practically no schools are closed in these days.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Under the new Act the names have been altered to: (1) Factory with mechanical power, and (2) Factory without it.

The latter take the place of the workshop.

During the year there were carried out 83 inspections of factories, and 7 written notices were made in regard to them, and non-power factories were inspected 52 times, 2 notices being sent. There were then 135 inspections in all, and 9 notices were sent about them.

The defects found were (2) want of cleanliness, 2 other nuisances, and 5 defective or insufficient sanitary accommodation. No defects were referred to H.M. Inspector, and no prosecutions were found necessary.

No lists of home workers were received, this being the case for a number of years.

The lists of factories without power, and workplaces, remain similar to preceding years.

WATER SUPPLY.

Rainfall, 1938, and Daily Yield.

Month	Gallons	Inches
January ..	120,000	0.79
February ..	64,000	0.78
March ..	30,000	0.16
April ..	30,000	0.04
May ..	20,000	1.90
June ..	17,000	1.20
July ..	14,000	2.90
August ..	12,000	3.20
September ..	12,000	3.31
October ..	50,000	3.08
November ..	60,000	3.06
December ..	163,000	3.36
Totals		23.78

RESULT OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Gathering Grounds Supply

Parts per 100,000.

	May	Sept.	May
	Grounds	Grounds	Tap Reservoir
Total Solids	36.9	35	31
Chlorine	1.2	1.3	1.3
Nitrates	0.056	.08	.12
Oxygen required ..	0.002	0	0
Hardness	35	30	25
			35.5°
Microbes on agar—			
At 22° in 1 c.c. ..	2	4	6
At 37° in 1 c.c. ..	1	3	2
B. Coli absent at 37°			
in c.c. water	100	100	100

Gainey's Well

	May	Sept.
Total Solids	36.1	35.6
Chlorine	2.2	2.2
Nitrates	0.68	0.6
Oxygen required .. .	0.008	0
Hardness	25	22
Microbes—		
On agar. at 22° .. .	7	62
On agar. at 39° .. .	15	1
Bac. Coli (absent in)	100	100

The local rainfall was 23.78 inches, which is about 6 inches less than in 1937.

During the first 4 months the total amount of rainfall was about 1.75 inches.

The fall for the first six months was 4.87 inches, but for the second half year it was 18.91 inches, or about 4 times as much. The yield of the upper springs naturally corresponded more or less with the rainfall, being less in 7 months and more in 5 months compared with 1937.

The total amount of water received from the upper service was 20,700,000 gallons, from Gainey's Well 23,000,000 and purchased from the Stroud Water Company 41,000,000 gallons; the latter quantity being for the year ending March 31st, 1939.

This compares with about 29 million gallons purchased in the preceding 12 months, and similar quantites during several previous years.

The total consumption was $84\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons.

Five samples of water from the two supplies were examined chemically by the County analyst.

Of these 3 were in May, one from the gathering grounds, one from the reservoirs after treatment with chlorine, and the other from Gainey's Well. In the first sample parts per 100,000 dissolved solids were 36.9, combined chlorine 1.2, and nitrates and mineral ammonia were present.

Hardness was 33.0, of which 26 was temporary.

The sample from the reservoir was similar, but hardness was 35.5, and of this 21.5 was temporary.

The sample from the Gainey's Well supply had chlorine 2.2 parts, nitrates 0.68, much above average, and hardness only 25.0.

Three samples were taken in September, the first from the upper supply was 30 hardness and other parts similar to the May sample.

This sample contained 3.0 parts per million of free chlorine. In the main sample no free chlorine was found, nitrates rather high, total hardness 25. The sample from the lower service, after treatment was very similar to the one taken in May, there being no free chlorine and hardness was only 22.

In addition to the chemical examinations of the water supply, 18 samples were sent for bacterial count, 9 from the upper, and 9 from the lower supply. In regard to No. 1 at 22 degrees the average growth was 95 microbes, and No. 2 showed an average of 57. In the first class in 2 months there were 220 and 610 all the rest averaging 2. In No. 2 series there were 230 and 185 in two months, the other 7 averaging 15 only. At 37 degrees the totals for the 9 months were respectively 32 in No. 1, and 81 in No. 2.

As to B. Coli in No. 1 it was absent in 100 c.c.'s of water in 7 cases, and in 75 c.c.'s in 2.

In No. 2 it was absent in 100 c.c.'s in 7 samples, in 75 c.c.'s in 1, and in 0.1 c.c. in

1 specimen at the same time that there were 230 microbes, total count at 37 degrees.

Because of the "typhoid" scare which followed a "water" epidemic in London, it was considered advisable to have frequent samples taken from the works of the Stroud Water Co. at Chalford. During 7 months samples were taken from the springs and from the two service reservoirs. B. Coli average, absent in 87. Total microbes at 22° were 23, or at 37° they were 3. In each case in 1 c.c. water. Water at the springs, B. Coli was always absent in 100 c.c.'s water, and this is from where the Stroud supply comes direct.

A chlorinating plant has now been provided at Gainey's Well, as well as at the upper supply, and the state of the water, microbically speaking, has improved very much. A new chlorine indicator is now in use and the water is tested three times a day, so that the amount entering the water is quite regular.

A sample of water was taken from a well at Ebley and sent for analysis. Total dissolved solids were high, being 48, chlorine 2.2, and nitrates 1.14, all parts per 10,000. Water was hard 33.0 degrees, and B. Coli was absent in 55 c.c.'s water. It was returned as of doubtful purity, as shown by the large amount of nitrates and combined chlorine.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Microbes per cubic centimetre of milk.

Thousands.	Number of Samples.						
	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
0—10	12	3	0	6	4	6	0
10—50	9	5	2	2	10	22	17
50—100	0	0	0	0	3	7	5
100—200	1	3	0	6	4	3	2
200—500	1	1	2	9	0	6	5
Over 500	1	0	0	1	3	3	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24	12	4	24	24	47	29
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Bacillus Coli.							
	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Absent	7	7	0	9	17	24	19
1—10	10	1	0	7	4	9	5
1—100	2	3	1	1	0	5	4
1—1000	5	1	3	7	3	9	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24	12	4	24	24	47	29
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Gerbur Tests for Milk Percentage.

7 at 3.0	9 at 3.5	4 at 4.0
14 at 3.1	15 at 3.6	4 at 4.1
24 at 3.2	5 at 3.7	3 at 4.2
21 at 3.3	8 at 3.8	4 at 4.3
13 at 3.4	7 at 3.9	4 at 4.5
	3 at 4.6	

There were 29 samples of milk sent to the analyst for microbic count, above the average but less than in 1937, when there were 47.

None of the samples in 1 c.c. had less than 10,000 microbes, and none had more than 500,000. As last year the largest number had 10—50,000 microbes.

In regard to B. Coli in 19 samples it was absent in one-tenth c.c., and in 11 absent in 1 c.c. of milk.

In only 1 instance B. Coli was present in 1/1000 c.c.

All the samples taken were in connection with the supply of milk to school children.

As most of the town's milk comes from the rural district, this is sampled by the rural officials, and those of the County milk department.

There were 21 dairies, 22 cowsheds and 6 milkshops on the register, 9 more than in 1937, and to these 171 visits of inspection were paid. Altogether there were 52 retail purveyors of milk in the town, most of whom take milk round in the morning only.

The inspector examined 148 samples of milk on the Gerbur machine, 18 more than in 1937. Of these samples 88 showed 3.0 to 3.5 per cent. fat, 39 gave 3.6 to 4, 15 gave 4.0—4.5, and 3 gave 4.6 per cent.

The average of the samples was 3.41 per cent. fat compared with 3.27 in 1937, which is a very good average.

No milk showed less than 3.0 per cent. fat.

Milk is being sold increasingly in bottles, but only one dealer sells T.T. grade A milk, and also pasteurised milk.

The latter milk is supplied to one large school, and has always been microbically very clean.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

Carcases examined.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Pigs	305	201	289	13737	15781	14807
Sheep	1307	1361	1245	2623	3703	4248
Beasts	59	379	382	921	1438	1270
Calves	38	42	53	90	162	174
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ..	1909	1983	1969	17371	21084	20599
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Meat Condemned.

Beasts' Carcases	0
Pigs' Carcases	0
Calf Carcases...	0
Pigs' heads, lungs, livers, etc. . . .	6
Beasts' heads, lungs, livers, etc.	13

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEATS.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

All Diseases except Tuberculosis :

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned :—Cattle, excluding Cows, 149; Cows, 7; Calves, 0; Sheep and Lambs, 37; Pigs, 1,006.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis :—Cattle, excluding Cows, 11.25; Cows, 16.28; Calves, .0; Sheep and Lambs, 1.01; Pigs, 6.88.

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned :—Cattle, excluding Cows, 1; Cows, 1; Calves, 0; Sheep and Lambs, 0; Pigs, 24.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 37; Cows, 4; Calves, nil; Sheep and Lambs, nil; Pigs, 1,201.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:—Cattle, excluding Cows, 2.86; Cows, 1.16; Calves, nil; Sheep and Lambs, nil; Pigs, 8.27.

Ten slaughter houses are in use in the town, 6 being licensed and 4 registered.

The inspectors paid 1,388 visits to these places, and 124 to food shops. They were carried on in a cleanly manner and few breaches of regulations were detected.

There were thoroughly inspected 20,559 carcasses, including 14,807 pigs, 4,248 sheep, 1,370 cattle and 174 calves. As in recent years a large number of these animals were killed at the bacon factory and the Abattoir, both situate at Ebley. The total of the animals killed was about 500 less than in 1937, pigs being almost 1,000 less, but sheep were up about 500.

The animals were slaughtered by humane methods, as has been the case for many years.

There were destroyed as unfit for human food 37 pigs, 6 sheep and 2 beasts. Because of all diseases except tuberculosis, 19 carcasses were condemned, and some parts of 1,200 carcasses were also seized.

This is equal to 16.28 per cent of cows, 11.25 of heifers, and 6.88 of pigs. Twenty-six whole carcasses were condemned because of tuberculosis, and 1,242 carcasses had some part condemned. There were 2.86 per cent. of heifers, 1.16 of cows and 8.29 of pigs with local tubercular disease.

Neither calves nor sheep were in any instance found to be infected with tubercle.

It is unusual to find this disease in sheep, and the same applies to horses, not used for food in this country. This immunity is partially racial, probably and largely due to the open-air life that they lead.

The organs condemned consisted of heads, livers, lungs and hearts of pigs, and to a lesser extent of beasts. A large number of

livers of beasts, and of sheep, were condemned as usual, because of "fluke," this condition not being so common as in some years.

Some of the slaughter houses are very much out of date, these being registered ones, which are difficult to deal with.

The usual complaints have been received in regard to the deposit for hides and skins in a congested part of the town.

Notices have been served on the owners, who have improved conditions somewhat, but this nuisance is very liable to recur, especially when warm weather arrives.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

Houses Erected.

By Private Enterprise	35
By Council Houses	0
By Council Bungalows	0
	—
Total ..	35
	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	344
(2) (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	511
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	83
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	129
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	75

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... .. 34

2. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Part II. Repairs, Demolition, Closures):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 (a) by owners 14
 (b) By local authority in default of owners 0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 23

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 (a) By owners 20
 (b) By local authority in default of owners 0

Part 2 (Demolition. Sections 11 and 13):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... .. 6

Part 3 (Clearance, Redevelopment and Improvement Areas):—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 4

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	3
---	---

E.—Any particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the M.O.H. may consider it desirable to report.

Clearance areas made	0
------------------------------	---

Improvement areas made	0
--------------------------------	---

Thirty-five houses were built during the year, all being done by private enterprise. No Council houses were erected.

There is still considerable demand for Council houses, a large number of people living 2 families per house.

Although most of these are not overcrowded legally, there is no doubt that they are not being allowed enough air-space for good health.

House Inspection

There were inspected many more houses than in 1937, the number being 344 as against 101. Including re-inspections there were 511 houses examined, as to 269 in 1937.

Under the housing regulations only 83 houses are included in the registration, for which 129 inspections were carried out.

Only 3 houses were found to be quite unfit for habitation, compared with 1 in 1937. In addition, there were 75 houses found not fit for human occupation. The number is similar to the one a year ago.

Informal action by the officials got the owners to render fit 34 houses, as to 16 in 1937. Under the Housing Acts, 1936, there were 18 notices served, as to 78 in the previous year, requiring repairs, and 14 out of these were put right by the owners, none by the authority.

Under the Public Health Acts, notices were served as to 23 defective houses, and 20 were put into order, all by the owners.

Under sections 11 and 13 (Part 2) 1930 Housing Act, one demolition order was made, and 6 houses were demolished, 5 being under previous orders. Under part 3 of the Act, closing orders were made in regard to 4 separate tenements or underground rooms; and 3 such orders were determined as the rooms were rendered habitable.

There were no clearance or improvement areas dealt with, it not being considered necessary.

Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	31
(2) Number of families dwelling therein..	32
(3) Number of Persons dwelling therein..	201
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	23
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Authority have taken steps for its abatement	0

The number of houses overcrowded at the end of 1937 was 30, and by the end of 1938 it was 1 more, or 31. The number of families occupying these houses was 32, or 1 more than the number of houses.

Only 3 new cases were reported during the year, and 4 were relieved.

The number of persons in the 31 overcrowded houses was 201, which gives nearly 7 per house.

No houses were known in which the overcrowding had been relieved and had occurred again.

Although families are gradually becoming smaller, many of the older houses are very small, and quite unsuitable for grown-up families, more especially as a shortage of suitable houses keeps the younger people from getting married. Another point is, especially in a district of factories, that young women who at one time went into domestic service, now stay at home and work at the mills.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Although the numbers were low, the cases of notified disease were in all 82, this comparing with 42 in 1937.

Scarlet fever was somewhat prevalent with 33 cases, 10 males and 23 females. As usual a large proportion of these were at school age.

No less than 4 patients came from one family, a rather long interval occurring between the cases. Most of the patients came from the upper town, there being 8 cases coming from a girls' school, and 4 from a nearby infant school.

Of the adults several were factory workers, and one an engineer. All the cases were fairly mild and no fatality was recorded.

There is no doubt but that a fairly large epidemic of bacterial dysentery was present during the last two years, one doctor saying that he had probably had scores of cases, but did not have any microbic examinations made. Many cases were treated as probable influenza. Three cases were however reported, after examination for the germ, two pre-school children, from the Leazes, and one oldish man from the Uplands. Apparently the epidemic, which was present all over the country, played itself out, and no cases are now reported.

Of the 9 cases of diphtheria, all of which except 2 were school children, 4 occurred in January, 4 in early summer, and one solitary case, an adult factory worker, in the autumn.

A fourth case occurred in a family six weeks after the last one had been sent to hospital, and after the family had moved to a Council house.

In addition to "carriers," 8 patients were treated at Cashes Green, and all of them recovered.

The first cases were connected probably with a children's home, and the second lot had one child from the home, one from the infirmary and one woman worker at the institution, who lived in another part of the town.

The district had been practically free of the disease since the years 1931-33 when a serious epidemic occurred. It is satisfactory to know that no case has occurred in the district since the end of October 1938.

Six cases of erysipelas were reported, all of them being adults.

Pneumonia, according to the notifications, was more prevalent, there being 14 cases reported.

Cases occurred at all ages, there being 2 at under one year, and 4 at 45-65 years. The 4 deaths certified were at both ends of the scale.

Several cases were not notified, and when deaths occurred, letters were sent to the medical men on the subject.

One case of puerperal pyrexia was notified from the upper town. The patient was not very ill, and the doctor did not think it necessary for her to go to hospital.

There was one case of ophthalmia neonatorum.

The patient made a complete recovery, being treated at home with the assistance of the district nurse.

Two cases of undulant fever, not a notifiable disease according to the schedule, were reported by their medical attendants; one a woman of 29, and the other aged 70 years. No direct, or recent, contact with cows or pigs could be traced, although one woman had kept cows years ago.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES AND MORTALITY.

Ages.	Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	3
15	2	0	1	2
25	1	1	0	0
35	0	2	0	0
45	1	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	1
65	0	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	3	1	7

Ages.	Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0
25	0	1	0	0
35	0	1	0	0
45	1	1	0	0
65	1	2	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	5	0	0

There were 15 cases of tuberculosis notified, 7 of pulmonary infection, and 8 of the disease in other parts.

In 1937 there were 9 lung cases.

Two children and 5 adults were attacked, and 5 of these were treated at a sanatorium.

The deaths were 7, the same as the number of cases, but as usual there were several patients who died and were never notified.

In regard to this disease, as also to pneumonia, there are always certain medical men who object to notification, and when they do report cases, the latter are often very far advanced.

Seven of the cases of other forms of tuberculosis were glandular infections, one being a spinal case. None of these cases were fatal and all made a good recovery.

Six of them were children, and 2 aged over 45 years. Five of the latter patients were treated at the Standish House Sanatorium, which was largely responsible for the cures.

Four tubercular patients were treated at the isolation hospital.

JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Enteric.	Tuberculosis.	Other.	Totals.
Admission ..	47	23	1	3	20	0	94
Discharges ..	48	26	1	3	12	0	90
Deaths	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
In Hospital,							
Dec. 31/38	7	0	0	0	11	0	18
Urban Cases	29	14	0	0	4	0	47

There were 94 patients treated at the Cashes Green Hospital, compared with 71 in 1937.

The number includes 47 cases of scarlet fever, 23 diphtheria (including "carriers"), 3 enteric fever, 20 tuberculosis, and 1 measles.

Nine deaths took place, all from tuberculosis, including a majority from outside the combined areas. Scarlet fever cases were in hospital on the average 41 days, diphtheria cases 23 days and tuberculosis 106 days.

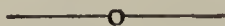


TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1938 and 5 previous Years

Y <small>EAR</small> .	Population estimated at Middle of each Year.	B <small>IRTHS</small> .			T <small>OTAL DEATHS</small> R <small>EGISTERED IN</small> T <small>HE DISTRICT</small> .		T <small>RANSFERABLE</small> D <small>EATHS</small> .		N <small>ETT DEATHS BELONGING TO</small> T <small>HE DISTRICT</small> .			
		Un- corrected Number.	N <small>ETT</small> .		Number.	Rate	of Non- Residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	U <small>nder 1 Year of Age</small> .		At all Ages.	
			Num- ber.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 N <small>ETT</small> Births.		Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1933	8,420	121	120	14.2	184	21.8	84	5	6	50	105	13.0
1934	8,450	114	123	14.5	179	21.1	64	8	8	65	123	14.5
1935	8,490	110	109	12.8	176	20.7	84	10	6	55	102	12.0
1936	12,633	158	150	11.9	272	21.5	91	7	6	40	187	14.8
1937	14,100	160	160	11.3	214	15.1	71	18	6	37	161	11.4
1938	14,120	172	183	13.0	257	18.2	84	7	10	54	180	12.7

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,168. Total population at all ages, 8,364 (1931).

Number of inhabited houses, 2,228. Average number of persons per house, 3.8. (At Census of 1931).

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District: Stroud Poor Law Inst., Stroud Gen. Hospital.
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District: Gloucester County Asylum, Gloucester Royal Infirmary, Stroud Joint Isolation Hospitals, Standish House Sanatorium, Over Isolation Hospital.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1938

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							STROUD	UPLANDS	HOSPITAL.	UNION	STROUD	UPLANDS	TOTAL
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards							
Sonne Dysentery	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	9	...	2	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	14	2	3	2	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	33	...	4	23	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	2	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of tuberculosis	8	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	82	3	12	37	7	12	7	4	...	7	...	...	...	48	...

Isolation Hospitals—Stroud Joint Isolation Hospitals—Cainscross and Bisley.
Sanatorium—Standish House (County Council).

TABLE III. DEATHS.—Stroud Urban District Council.

Year Ending December 31st, 1938

Causes of Death	All Ages	Under 1	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and upwards	Infirmaries	Hospitals	Non-residents
All causes. Uncertified ...	Nil											
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatism	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Influenza	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	17	13	1	8
Arterio Sclerosis, etc.	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	9	2	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	...	1	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	15	6	7	9
Bronchitis	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	1	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	1
Organic Heart Disease	32	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	25	6	3	9
Diabetes	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Nephritis and Brights Disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	2
Senility	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	15	...	7
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	2	9	9
Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Other defined diseases	19	2	...	2	1	1	3	5	5	6	18	12
Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	2
TOTALS	189	10	1	2	2	5	9	38	122	64	58	84

TABLE IV.
 INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1938
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under one Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week							Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under One year.
	ALL CAUSES.	Certified	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	...							
Premature Birth	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia
Tubercle
Congenital Debility	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL	...	3	...	2	...	...	5	2	...	1	2	10	

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 177; illegitimate, 6; total, 183.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 10; illegitimate infants 0.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework

1938. 1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	83	7	0
Factories (without Mechanical Power)	52	2	0
TOTAL	135	9	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Other nuisances... ..	2	2		
Sanitary accommodation insufficient, unsuitable or defective	5	5		
TOTAL	9	9	Nil	Nil

3.—OTHER MATTERS

Home Work: Lists received, 0; Outworkers, 0; Notified by H.M. Inspector, 0.
 Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector, 0; Underground Bakehouse (s. 101), technically in use at the end of the year, 3.
 Registered Workshops:—Tailors, 4; Bakers, 11; Milliners and Dressmakers, 5; Printers, 5; Bootmakers, 4; Various, 48; Total 77.

